

The
June 2007

EMA Report

NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRANKLIN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

VOLUME I, NUMBER 8



Ohio media, state and county representatives board a CH47 Chinook Helicopter at OSU Airport for an hour flight to Camp Atterbury, Indiana, May 12, 2007.



Guardsmen drill through rubble.

Observers flown to Indiana to see Ohio participation

Nation's Largest National Guard Exercise Tests Homeland Defense Coordination

Local media, state, county and city representatives boarded a CH47 Chinook Helicopter from OSU Airport to witness the Ohio National Guard's role in a training exercise in Indiana, Saturday, May 12.

Vigilant Guard, which simulated a 10-kiloton improvised nuclear device detonated near Indianapolis, was part of a series of exercises spanning 12 days designed in response to a national crisis. Other events occurred in New England and Alaska and involved the US Coast Guard, US Navy and Canadian Navy forces. The Department of Defense, US Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency sponsored the training.

Key objectives were to enhance preparedness of National Guard units as the first military responder; integration of state, regional and federal relationships, refine plans and procedures currently in place during

a crisis event, manage change to improve homeland readiness and initiate the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Casualties, infrastructure damage, evacuations and contamination were included in the Indiana scenario. More than 450 Ohio National Guard personnel from Joint Task Force 73; 179 Air Wing; 269 Combat Communications Squadron; 52nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction); National Guard Reaction Force; and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Package teams joined 1,500 other guardsmen from surrounding states.

EMAC is a congressionally ratified process of support that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid.

Through EMAC, a disaster impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

Mayor Becky Stinchcomb earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism, with a major in Public Relations/Advertising and a minor in political science from Bowling Green State University.

She has a long career in newspaper advertising management spanning more than 25 years. Her private-sector positions were with **Suburban News Publications, ThisWeek Newspapers, The Columbus Dispatch** and **Newspaper Network of Central Ohio**.

A resident of Rathburn Woods, she served on the Gahanna City Council as representative to Ward Three. She was re-elected four additional terms. During her Council career, she chaired every committee and was elected Vice President twice. It was during her term as President in 2001 that she accepted the appointment as Mayor of Gahanna. Becky Stinchcomb was sworn in as Mayor of Gahanna on October 9, 2001.

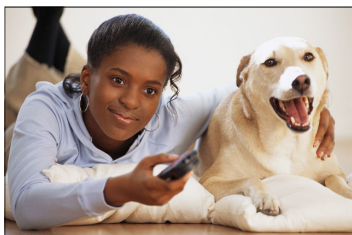


Mayor Becky Stinchcomb

"As Gahanna's Mayor, I place the highest priority on the health, safety and welfare of our residents," she said. "It is imperative that we do all we can to insure preparedness and the ability to respond to emergencies. I am pleased to also represent the Central Ohio Municipal Council on the County Emergency Management & Homeland Security Executive Committee to increase the capabilities of the Central Ohio area for emergency response. I believe the suburban jurisdictions play an extremely key role in the overall ability of Franklin County to cope with disaster events."

In May 2003, she won the Gahanna mayoral primary and went on to win the November general election. She was sworn in on January 2, 2004 as the first woman in the history of the City of Gahanna to be elected its mayor. Presently, Becky Stinchcomb is serving her 6th year in the mayor's office.

Editor's Note: Each edition we feature an Executive Committee member and profile their duties and vision for FCEM&HS. Jim Williams is the alternate.



Nearly 40 people attended a three-hour **Emergency Animal Care Plan Table Top Exercise** at FCEM&HS May 22, 2007. The objectives were to identify strengths and weaknesses when dealing with a large animal population; increase understanding of community partner responsibilities; and promote advanced planning between community agencies, business and individuals through networking, building coalitions and strengthening relationships.

Columbus Public Health presenters were Dr. Aaron K. Messer, Public Health Veterinarian and Michael Fielding, Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness. Franklin County Board of Health presenters were Rick Roush, Preparedness Coordinator; Charlie Broschart, Community Environmental Health; and Jerry Pettit, Chemical and Physical Hazards.

Upcoming Class

For information of CERT programs, please log on to www.fccert.org.

Upcoming Meetings

June 25	3-4:30PM	Animal Plan	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.
June 26	8:30-4PM	Citizen Corps	5300 Strawberry Farms Blvd.

Upcoming Exercises

June 21	8AM-1	Rickenbacker Mustangs and Legends Air Show	Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base
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Recent Mercury Contamination Not A Public Health Threat

COLUMBUS, OHIO — On Thursday, May 31, Columbus Public Health learned of a mercury contamination at Rooster's Restaurant and Bar at 2454 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus.

Columbus Public Health has been working with the Ohio EPA and the US EPA to investigate any possible human exposure by testing the shoes and vehicles of customers and others who visited the restaurant on Tuesday, May 29 or Wednesday, May 30. Columbus Public Health was involved in the testing of 148 individuals and more than 80 vehicles of customers and others who had been inside the Rooster's on those days.

To date, all those tested showed negligible or no levels of mercury. It has been determined that **the public is not at risk from this incident** and no further follow up is needed for these customers, including those already tested. Columbus Public Health is following up with Rooster's employees, who are being contacted.

Mercury is a poison. This hazardous element can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested. Although mercury metal is a liquid at room temperature, it can turn into a vapor in the air. Symptoms of acute mercury poisoning are headache, nausea and vomiting, difficulty breathing, including coughing up blood.

No one has reported any symptoms of mercury from this incident. Citizens with questions about this incident should contact 311 or 645-3111.

Courtesy Columbus Public Health



Health inspectors check for mercury residue.

"A Great City Tends to Its Neighborhoods."

Mayor Michael B. Coleman

Neighborhood Pride is a team effort by City departments, neighborhood groups and individual citizens, businesses and other partners to make neighborhoods safer and cleaner, the key to a more vibrant and exciting future for Columbus.

For one week, preselected neighborhoods receive an intense delivery of City services, including the cleaning of alleys, mowing high grass in the public right-of-way and neighborhood recreational areas, replacing burned out street light bulbs, offering block watch and fire prevention outreach and evaluating exterior housing for code compliance.

For more information about Neighborhood Pride, please visit their web site at www.columbus.gov.



Members of the 7th Ave. Community Baptist Church Mime Troop end their performance with a symbolic hug. The group was among several participants at the Weinland Park Community Night activities held May 17, 2007.

September is **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH**
Get Prepared. Get Involved.
Visit www.ready.gov

Ready



Every year hundreds of natural disasters — ranging from hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding to blizzards and wildfires — wreak havoc on families, homes and entire communities across America. People are reminded to take action to prepare before these events happen, but sometimes they occur without warning.

Emergencies happen, but taking action now can help minimize the impact they will have on our lives.

September marks "National Preparedness Month 2007," a nationwide coordinated effort encouraging families to take simple steps for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

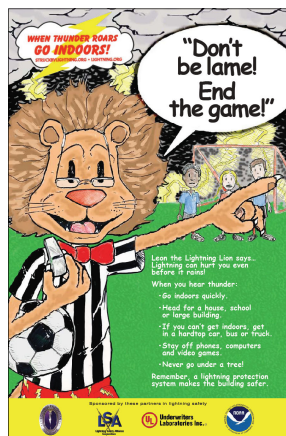
The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is partnering with numerous state agencies and associations from around the state to promote National Preparedness Month (NPM).

State agencies and associations will collaborate with five local communities to host events in geographically targeted areas of the state. **Cuyahoga, Scioto, Franklin, Lucas and Butler** counties have been selected by the statewide planning committee to host events coordinated by both state and local emergency response partners. It is the intent of the committee that these events are held in the major media market areas and news coverage assist in providing preparedness information to the general public.

The statewide NPM public awareness campaign includes public service announcements and print media outreach, state and local community awareness events and other activities throughout the month of September. Following the nationally recommended www.Ready.gov preparedness month guidelines, each week will focus on a targeted area of preparedness, including **schools, businesses, multi-cultural communities, homes and families**.

The Franklin County event is planned September 11th at the statehouse. Your agency or association is welcome to join Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the ODPS as a planning committee member and co-host of this event. A Franklin County National Preparedness Month September 11th event planning meeting is scheduled June 27th at 2PM at FCEM&HS. All are invited.

When Lightning Roars, Go Indoors: *Lightning Safety Week, June 24-30, 2007*



Summer is the peak season for one of the nation's deadliest weather phenomena—lightning. In the United States, an average of 66 people are killed each year by lightning. In 2006, there were 47 confirmed deaths and 246 confirmed injuries. The injury number is likely far lower than it should be because many people do not seek help or doctors do not record it as a lightning injury.

People struck by lightning suffer from a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms, including memory loss, attention deficits, sleep disorders, numbness, dizziness, stiffness in joints, irritability, fatigue, weakness, muscle spasms, depression, and an inability to sit for long.

Check www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov for handouts, indoor safety and outdoor risk reduction tips, medical facts, history, survivor stories, photos, teacher tools and more. The new kids page now includes a *Leon the Lion* safety coloring sheet.

Courtesy NOAA

Tuberculosis Remains One of the World's Leading Infectious Diseases

What Is TB? Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by germs that are spread from person to person through the air. TB usually affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, such as the brain, the kidneys or the spine. A person with TB can die if they do not get treatment.

What Are the Symptoms of TB? The general symptoms of TB disease include feelings of sickness or weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. The symptoms of TB disease of the lungs also include coughing, chest pain, and the coughing up of blood. Symptoms of TB disease in other parts of the body depend on the area affected.

How is TB Spread? TB germs are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. These germs can stay in the air for several hours, depending on the environment. Persons who breathe in the air containing these TB germs can become infected; this is called latent TB infection.

What Is the Difference Between Latent TB Infection and TB Disease? People with *latent TB infection* have TB germs in their bodies, but they are not sick because the germs are not active. These people do not have symptoms of TB disease, and they cannot spread the germs to others. However, they may develop TB disease in the future. They are often prescribed treatment to prevent them from developing TB disease. People with TB disease are sick from TB germs that are multiplying and destroying tissue in their body. They usually have symptoms of TB disease. People with TB disease of the lungs or throat are capable of spreading germs to others. They are prescribed drugs that can cure TB disease.

What Should I Do If I Have Spent Time with Someone with Latent TB Infection? A person with latent TB infection cannot spread germs to other people. You do not need to be tested if you have spent time with someone with latent TB infection. However, if you have spent time with someone with TB disease or someone with symptoms of TB, you should be tested.

What Should I Do if I Have Been Exposed to Someone with TB Disease? People with TB disease are most likely to spread the germs to people they spend time with every day, such as family members or coworkers. If you have been around someone who has TB disease, you should go to your doctor or your local health department for tests.

How Do You Get Tested for TB? There are two tests that can be used to help detect TB infection. The Mantoux tuberculin skin test is performed by injecting a small amount of fluid (called tuberculin) into the skin in the lower part of the arm. A person given the tuberculin skin test must return within 48 to 72 hours to have a trained health care worker look for a reaction on the arm. A second test is the QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test. The QuantiFERON®-TB Gold test is a blood test that measures how the patient's immune system reacts to the germs that cause TB.

Why Is Latent TB Infection Treated? If you have latent TB infection but not TB disease, your doctor may want you to take a drug to kill the TB germs and prevent you from developing TB disease. The decision about taking treatment for latent infection will be based on your chances of developing TB disease. Some people are more likely than others to develop TB disease once they have TB infection. This includes people with HIV infection, people who were recently exposed to someone with TB disease and people with certain medical conditions.

How Is TB Disease Treated? TB disease can be cured by taking several drugs for 6 to 12 months. It is very important that people who have TB disease finish the medicine and take the drugs exactly as prescribed. If they stop taking the drugs too soon, they can become sick again; if they do not take the drugs correctly, the germs that are still alive may become resistant to those drugs. TB that is resistant to drugs is harder and more expensive to treat. In some situations, staff of the local health department meet regularly with patients who have TB to watch them take their medications. This is called directly observed therapy (DOT).

Courtesy World Health Organization